Volume 8, No. 4 *April 1992*

Sacramento Area Career Womens Network, Inc.

A Hilarious Night Of Comedy! Karen Ripley And Over Our Heads

SACWN is tickled to present one of the hottest women's comedy groups in the country: KAREN RIPLEY AND OVER OUR HEADS. These four versatile women deliver a new show every performance. They skillfully mix improvisational comedy created from audience suggestions with their own touching funny songs. (Past hits include, "I Survived A Femme" and the country classic, "I May Be Looking At Hers, But I'm Squeezing Yours".

OVER OUR HEADS is a collaboration of Karen Ripley, Teresa Chandler, Annie Larson and Marion Damon. This dynamic ensemble has earned standing ovations and rave reviews from Michigan to San Francisco. I know you are thinking, "I've seen improvisation before", but you've never seen it like this. Give yourself a delightful evening of humor, and bring your friends to this wonderfully quick-paced, funny show.

DATE:	**SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH**	
PLACE:	Holiday Inn at Madison and I-80	
TIME:	7 pm	Networking
	8 pm	Show begins
TICKETS:	$15	PRE-REGISTERED MEMBERS
	$20	NON-MEMBERS AND AT THE DOOR MEMBERS
	$11	LIMITED INCOME MEMBERS

(Light appetizers will be available at each table)

A Message From the Steering Committee

Happy Easter!
Happy Spring!

Apply Here

Writers/ad reps needed for this newsletter. Enthusiasm and commitment more important than experience.

Write reviews of our events, articles of interest. Or, contact our members who are prospective advertisers so we can find that handsome woman plumber when we need her.

This is a team effort. Make a commitment of just 6 months, see how you like it. Get good experience for your resume as well as fun and satisfaction. One meeting per month + writing and phone calling time. Put some balance in your life.

Up Coming Event

Watch this space for details of this year's annual Mothers' Day Picnic on Saturday, May 9 at Beach Lake Preserve. You won't believe your eyes!

Successful SACWNITE

by Annie Johnson

This month's successful SACWNITE is Cheryl Dwelle. Cheryl is truly an asset to our community.

Professionally she has owned her printing brokerage, First Impression, for three years. She also has taught country and western dancing at Metropolitan Community Church and gives group lessons in Sacramento and Placerville.

Her volunteer work includes teaching weekly at the Mustard Seed School for Homeless Children run by Loaves and Fishes.

She has been a member of SACWN since its inception and is proud to be a part of the growth she has witnessed over the years, especially the diversity of its membership that SACWN has experienced.Cheryl credits much of her success to her strong spirituality. She is a member of the Temple of Living Prayer and she and her partner, Charla, share a rich spiritual connection which she feels greatly strengthens their dynamic two-year relationship. "It is a blessing to travel that spiritual road together", she says.

When asked to share her philosophy for life, Cheryl stated her belief in always approaching life with an open heart in order to know, love and accept yourself fully.

Congratulations, Cheryl, and thank you for your many contributions to SACWN and our community.

Steering Committee

Rosemary Metrailer, Corporate Coordinator
(916)447-7255

Jane Irwin, Finance Coordinator
(916) 424-3153

Ellie Zacks, Special Interest Groups Coord.
(916) 967-3513

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(916) 927-6038

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(916)486-8985

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Marta Kravech, Production

Jayne Rountree, Advertising

Contributors: Ann Johnson, Kathelen Johnson, Rosy Metrailer, Robin Pepper, Ellie Zacks, Rosanna Herber.

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Advertising Rates

Type	Member	NonMember
1/2 Business Card	$14.00	$21.00
Business Card	$25.00	$37.50
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Half page	$90.00	$135.00
Full page	$160.00	$240.00
Classified ads (per word)	.40	.60
Discounts	1 year	20%
(pre-paid)	1/2 year	10%

Special Interest Groups -- April

LISA of the GOLF group is moving so she is retiring from facilitating. Thank you, Lisa, for so ably leading this very popular group. Thanks too to KATHY Buxton who has been providing calligraphy for our HUB clipboards — we've yielded to the computer age. Even I who am a computer moron (seriously, I have to ask my partner to turn on the computer before I type) have succumbed. Call me if you have a suggestion for new S.I.G. groups.

Ellie Zacks
967-3513

BRIDGE
Bridge dates for April are Friday, the 10th at 7 pm at Jean's and Sunday, the 26th at 4 p.m. (location to be announced). Please call the hostess at least 2 days in advance to RSVP. Call Suzy at 1-678-3581 for information.

GOLF
We need a new facilitator for this group. Call Ellie at 967-3513.

SOCIAL CONNECTION
This month we have two special events. On April 11, we're going to Picnic Day at U.C. Davis. Picnic Day is an open house celebration with over 100 events planned, including body building, dachshund races, sheep dog trials, lectures and tours. Plan to eat at one of the many food booths. Meet at 10 a.m. at Target on Broadway. Davis folks — meet at Cafe Italia at 10:30 a.m. Call Diana for details at 487-3124.

On April 25 at 6:30 p.m., we're going to have a game night and potluck at Marge's. We'll have pictionary, scrabble and who knows. Call Ann at 927-6038 for details.

LATE-BLOOMERS
Late Bloomers are invited to form a circle of friendship and support. Initially, the meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of every month from 7-9 p.m. Following formation of the group, future agendas and meeting dates will be a group decision. The plan is to meet, talk and have fun socially. Come on, give me a call. I'm open for suggestions and great experiences. Contact Susan Giles, 928-2320 (work) or 641-1887 (home).

CULTURE CLUB
Let's get together and plan some great spring events:

On April 7, we're going to have a potluck planning meeting at 6 p.m. Call Ann at 927-6038.

On April 11 at 5:30 p.m., we're having a Linda Hunt film festival and potluck. We will see "Waiting for the Moon" and "The Year of Living Dangerously". Call Jean at 1-756-4281 for directions.

TOP TEN
Top Ten is for the 10% of SACWN membership age 50 and up and their friends. We have a thriving membership — 45 women, many of whom have not reached their golden years. We meet once a month on the second Sunday and get together for dinner later in the month as well. For information, call Gayle at 456-4121 or Ariel at 483-9794.

DAVIS OVER 30
Our April meeting will be on Saturday, April 25 and weather permitting, it will be an outdoor meeting. We may do a bike ride, a hike or a wild flower walk. Come to the March meeting to help us make a decision. For more information, call Nancy at 756-7842 or Cathleen at 487-0416.

OUTINGS
Join us Sunday, April 12 for canoeing at Lake Natomas. For details, call Nancy at 452-6007 or 454-5847.

SECOND STAGE RECOVERY
We're now one year old! We have evolved into a close group of sharing friends celebrating our growth and recovery. If you have at least one year in a 12 step recovery program and are looking for a safe, supportive, loving environment to continue your discovery through recovery, Call Ann at 927-6038.

RAINBOW CAMPERS
It's that TIME! Dust off your tents, trailers, sleeping bags, etc. and let's go camping. A potluck planning session will be scheduled soon to set up excursions for the upcoming season. If you'd like to join us, please call Jayne at 921-6642.

WOMEN SURVIVING BREAKUP
This group needs a new facilitator. Call Ellie at 967-3513.

WOMEN'S WORDS (formerly PLAY-READING)
We are expanding this group to include not only play-reading but also short story reading and poetry reading. So bring your favorite lesbian writings to our meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Call Lenora at 444-0102 for location.

LESBIAN PARENTS
On April 19, we will be taking a trip to Daffodil Hill, Volcano and Indian Rock. Call Sherry at 739-1691 or Bobbi at 641-7865 for details. Hope to see you there.

BASKETBALL
We are playing Saturday mornings from 9-11 for fun and exercise. ALL skill levels are welcome; no previous experience necessary. For information on location, call Maggie at 456-1420.

NEWCOMERS
This group welcomes anyone new to SACWN or Sacramento, plus those who prefer a smaller group for getting acquainted with other SACWN members. We get together for dinner once a month. For details, call Nancy at 454-5847.

NEW GROUPS
Softball-- call Linda at 446-9516.
30 Something-- call Sheri at 361-8537.

Calendar of Events

SACWN Events

April 18
Karen Ripley and Over Our Heads Comedy, Holidome 5321 Date Avenue (I-80 at Madison)

May 9
Mothers Day Picnic
Beach Lake Preserve

June 20
Pride Dance
Unitarian Meeting House
(yes! back to your favorite place)

Community in April

April 19 8am
A Statewide Action in the State Capitol at Capitol Christian Center, 9470 Micron Ave. Call (916) 863-2518 ext. 3030 Queer Nation.

April 25
Our Forgotten Heritage! American Musical Roots. Call 344-5844.

April 29
Matrix International Exhibit
Matrix Gallery. Call 441-4818.

Mondays Women's Rap & Social at the Lambda Center
7-9 pm - For info call 442-0185
Stop Smoking - a drop-in self-help program at the Lambda Center at 5:30 - call 442-0185

Tuesdays Being Gay Today 10 pm on Cable 18

Thursdays Women's Coming Out Group at the Lambda Center from 6-7:30 pm - For more info call 442-0185

Fridays Country Western Dance at 7;30 pm at MCC - For info call 454-4726.

Our Day In Court - Against Each Other

Intra-community Disputes Threaten All of Our Rights

The following are excerpts from an article which appeared in the National Center for Lesbian Rights Newsletter, Winter 1991/1992. The article begins with summaries of cases from various states involving women who entered into written property agreements together then broke up and one argued the agreement was void because it is based on an illegal, lesbian relationship; where gay male donors sued lesbians for visitation or custody of children they fathered, despite contrary written agreements; where lesbian co-parents took each other to court to fight over custody of their children, the birth or adoptive mothers asserting that the non-birth mothers are legal strangers to their children with no right to have any contact with them. So far, the courts have agreed with these terrible arguments.

When we hear about these conflicts, many of us wonder why are we doing this to each other. What does this mean about our community? Is this internalized homophobia? Are these bad, politically incorrect, or sick people?

One reason lesbians and gay men are ending up in court against each other is that the legal system is the only forum available to most people to resolve disputes. We pay our taxes along with everyone else; we should have access to the legal system. Our community is not over-represented in the courts. If anything, we can be proud of how often we resolve conflicts outside of the legal system. In Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York and other places, we even are creating mediation panels and other alternative dispute-resolution options for ourselves.

The reasons we are taking such terrible positions against each other are twofold: because we can, and because we remain outside the legal system. If straight people could get out of contracts or eliminate co-parents, they would. The legal system provides boundaries for the rest of society which it does not provide lesbians and gay men — boundaries to limit unconscionable acts, and boundaries to define and support families.

When straight people have children, they either know who the children's family is and have the support of the legal system in that definition, or they have the recourse to create a legally defined family, through step-parent adoption, for instance. Once these legal relationships are established, straight parents can predict what will happen in future situations. If they die or break-up, they have a legally recognized procedure for determining custody.

WE do not have the ability to legitimate our families in these ways. Sometimes our family constellation matches the legal definition, but more often, it does not. Not only are we denied the legal protections and support our families need, we also can't rely on the predictability the law provides.

And so, when we're angry we go to court and take sometimes extreme positions. We use the laws we hate against each other, or we are forced to distort our family to fit the limited legal definitions available to us.

What these cases do tell us is that a comprehensive examination of our laws is overdue. We must become more familiar with some of the concepts involved and step back

continued on page 7

Joan Frazzini,
LCSW LG9415

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CALL
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The **LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE** is a service of The Lambda Letters Project, a non-profit agency funded by contributions from individuals like yourself. The Project helps women, lesbians and gays, HIV positive people, and other supportive persons to express their views in letters and telephone calls.

For Further Information call:
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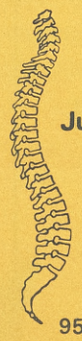

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(continued) OurDayInCourt
and fashion what we need. As upsetting and disheartening (and painful for the parties involved) as these cases are, they should serve as an early warning of what issues we need to address and of some of the factors likely to arise in other cases.

[NCLR has been participating in roundtable discussions of these questions with other gay and lesbian rights advocates and will be sponsoring a series of public forums on some of the current issues arising in intra-community disputes. If you want input, call or write them at 1663 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 (415)621-0675.]

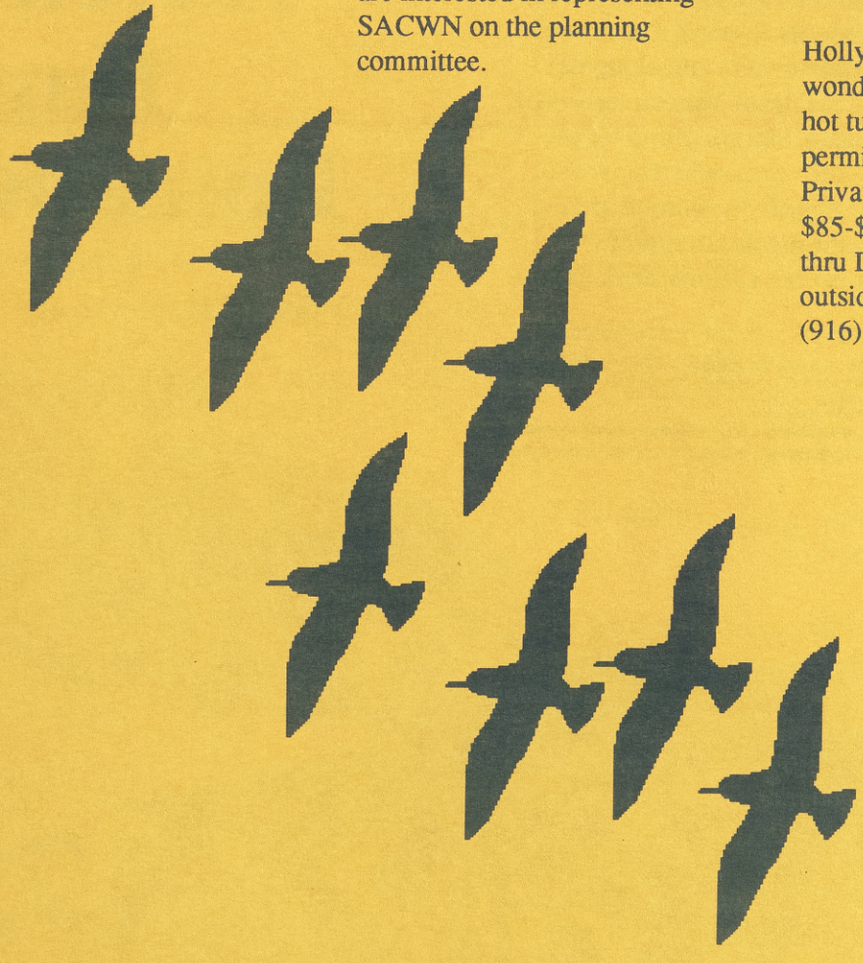
Announcements

A new group has formed like ours as an affiliate of Bay Area Career Women, called BACW - Central Valley, They are having regular get-togethers called "TGI Fridays" from 5:30 - 7:30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month at R.J. Sweatwaters, 1029 9th Street, Modesto. Cost is $2.00 for BACW/ SACWN members, $3.00 non-members. Call Dodie (209) 527-8237 for further information.

National Coming Out Day

Lambda Community Fund is beginning to plan events to celebrate the 5th Annual National Coming Out Day in Sacramento on October 11.

Contact Rosy at 447-7255 if you are interested in representing SACWN on the planning committee.



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**SUSTAINING - Contributing a little extra to help supplement others (Seniors, Students, Disabled) on limited income.

A Hilarious Night of Comedy! Karen Ripley and Over Our Heads

April 18, 1992

Holiday Inn

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Reserved Non-members $20.	_____	_____
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Total tickets _____ Total enclosed $ _____

At the door tickets will be $20 for members, and all others, as space permits.

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